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**FTAA - COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PARTICIPATION
OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

COVER SHEET

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ISSUES ADDRESSED (Check all that apply)

Agriculture ✓	Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties ✓
Competition Policy ✓	Civil Society ✓
Dispute Settlement ✓	Electronic Commerce ✓
Government Procurement ✓	Smaller Economies ✓
Intellectual Property Rights ✓	The FTAA Process ✓
Investment ✓	Other: Business facilitation measures ✓
Market Access ✓	Other: Private-sector consultation ✓
Services ✓	Other: Labor and environmental rules ✓

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – 2 pages maximum – (see Open Invitation): Attached

Executive Summary

The Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America, the U.S. Section of the Brazil-U.S. Business Council, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce welcome this opportunity to present our views on the emerging Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). We strongly support free trade in the hemisphere, and we have regularly provided substantive comments and recommendations to the Americas Business Fora and to the trade ministers.

The basic rationale for the FTAA is as strong as ever: hemispheric free trade will foster economic growth and rising incomes throughout the hemisphere. In fact, as a spiderweb of free-trade agreements has emerged in the hemisphere during the 1990s, the economic argument in favor of the FTAA has been strengthened. These new accords raise questions about whether the hemisphere is seeing more “trade diversion” than “trade creation.” A hemispheric free-trade agreement would eliminate these concerns.

To bring the nations of the hemisphere the full benefits of the FTAA as expeditiously as possible, we offer the following recommendations to the negotiating groups:

- **Market Access:** The FTAA negotiations should strive for the earliest possible removal of all tariff and non-tariff trade barriers.
- **Agriculture:** We recommend that the negotiating countries declare the hemisphere a subsidy-free zone, with all countries in the region pledging to neither extend subsidies on their own exports, nor to admit subsidized imports from outside the region.
- **Services:** We urge the negotiators adopt the U.S. government’s “round two” business facilitation proposals numbered 1-4.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** We urge the negotiators adopt the U.S. government’s “round two” business facilitation proposals numbered 7-10.
- **Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties:** We urge the negotiators to eliminate trade-distorting subsidies within the region and to ensure that that antidumping and countervailing duty regulations conform to clear and transparent standards.
- **Competition Policy:** The FTAA should mandate that member countries apply strong national competition policies.
- **Government Procurement:** The FTAA should remove domestic preferences and requirements in government procurement, which limit the ability of governments to make the most efficient use of fiscal resources. We urge the negotiators adopt the U.S. government’s “round two” business facilitation proposals numbered 13-16.
- **Dispute Settlement:** We urge the negotiators adopt the U.S. government’s “round two” business facilitation proposal number 12.